

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2001

March is Social Work Month!

The Veterans Health Administration is the single largest employer of social workers in the United States. Support your veterans and social workers by cosponsoring HR 663!

Dear Colleague:

Recently, we reintroduced legislation to establish a **National Center for Social Work Research, HR 663**. The proposed center, which would be located within the National Institutes of Health, would provide a focal point for interdisciplinary, family-centered, and community-based social work research designed to improve social work services and help policymakers make wise and efficient policy decisions.

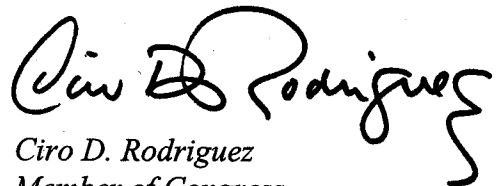
Social workers perform valuable services in many settings. A major example is the role social workers play in providing care to our nation's veterans. **The Veterans Health Administration (VHA), which employs over 3,900 social workers, is the single largest employer of master's prepared social workers in the United States.** Social workers in the VHA assist veterans by providing individual and family counseling, patient education, end of life planning, substance abuse treatment, crisis intervention and a host of other services. Research improves patient outcomes, but the VHA has few existing resources to support social work research.

We urge you to let your social workers – whether helping veterans, students or others - know you support their hard work by cosponsoring **HR 663**, legislation to establish a **National Center for Social Work Research**. Please contact us if you have any further questions, or direct your staff to call Laura Marquez (Rep. Rodriguez) at 5-1640, or Vivian Curry (Rep. Hutchinson) at 5-4301.

Sincerely,



Asa Hutchinson
Member of Congress



Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress